

PSYCHOLOGY

Halt Recurring Strikes

► PSYCHOLOGISTS have the know-how to deal with recurring strikes.

A strike, in the view of scientists, is a surface symptom of an underlying social maladjustment or disease.

The reason measures taken to "settle" a strike so often fail or only lead to a recurrence of the strike a little while later is because they are aimed at treating the symptom and not the underlying cause. It is as if a physician should treat a typhoid patient only with sponge baths to reduce his fever.

The Federal Government could sponsor a commission of scientists to analyze specifically the causes underlying recurrent strikes, it has been suggested by Dr. Dorwin Cartwright, director of the Research Center of Group Dynamics, University of Michigan.

Such a commission should examine the major sources of tension from the point of view of economics, sociology, political science and social psychology. It would be devoted to a search for facts and understanding and would, therefore, not be partisan.

There are several reasons that psychologists could point out why the "conciliation" method used at present and in the past fails to produce any lasting solution.

In the first place, both labor and management are likely to pick as representatives on any conciliation board men who not only are not gifted in ability to conciliate, but who can be relied upon to "stick to their

guns" and put up a good, hard-slugging fight for their own side of the dispute.

However, this is not the only handicap of "conciliation" boards. Both sides in the dispute must rely for strength in the show-down on the support of their constituencies and some of the public.

Yet neither the representative of labor or the spokesman for management actually knows what the men behind him really want. And both have only the vaguest notion what the desires and needs of the public are.

A scientifically conducted survey of the requirements and desires of stockholders, management, workers and the public would show each representative around the "conciliation" table the limits of support behind him and how much he might concede without betraying his trust.

Such a means for bringing the true facts to the conference table is recommended by Dr. Francis Bradshaw, consulting psychologist of Richardson, Bellows, Henry and Co., New York.

Sometimes it is found that even the words basic to the dispute are not understood by the individuals concerned or not understood in the same way. In one situation, tests revealed that the average supervisor failed to understand 80% of the words used in the contract under controversy. The average union shop steward missed 70%.

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applies to ants, termites, aphids and mosquitoes. But whereas both male and female ambrosia beetles are earthbound, only the queen ants and termites are restricted.

The scientist says that the flight muscles disappear because of hard work and no eating. Just after they mate, the beetles have the job of building a gallery for their brood. Lack of food while working makes the flight muscles degenerate. Since the beetles cannot fly they are held to their work, and the flight muscles degenerate still more.

After the young have been born and mature, the parental beetles gorge themselves.

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GEOLOGY

Find Badlands in East

► CHILDREN who like to play cowboy can find badlands in eastern United States which look ideal for cattle rustling or maybe holding up a stage coach or two.

Badlands like those in South Dakota, Arizona and New Mexico have been studied by geologists at Perth Amboy, N. J. A barren, rugged region on the north bank of the Raritan River in New Jersey has been compared with similar areas in the West by scientists seeking to learn more about erosion.

The eastern badlands were found to have been formed according to the same laws which shaped their western counterparts. They have the same desert-like, sandy stretches, the same sharp-ridged hills, the same narrow canyons where imaginative young Indians and outlaws can ambush each other.

The Perth Amboy badlands have developed since 1929, when waste from some of the area's clay pits backfilled an abandoned clay pit, producing a deeply rutted, steep-faced, terrace-like deposit 40 feet high. The badlands only cover a few hundred feet.

The Perth Amboy badlands are not the only ones in eastern United States, the scientists say. Wind and water are rapidly carving badlands out of the Ducktown Copper Basin in southeastern Tennessee, where more than 10 square miles have been stripped of earth-holding vegetation by smelter fumes. This is considered the largest bare area in any humid region of the United States.

Stanley A. Schumm reports his findings in the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America* (May).

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ENTOMOLOGY

Beetle Has Built-in Stay-at-Home Control

► THE AMBROSIA BEETLE'S flight muscles degenerate about the time housekeeping cares loom, a Canadian scientist has found.

Reporting his work in *Nature* (June 23), John A. Chapman of the Forest Biology Laboratory, Victoria, B. C., says this also